Climate change, maritime security and CSDP

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Three questions to structure the presentation

1. Is climate change a (maritime) security issue?

2. What climate change challenges do we face, and what lessons can we learn from recent environmental disasters?

3. Should Climate Action be mainstreamed in CSDP operations and missions?
Is climate change a (maritime) security issue?

The danger from climate change is real, urgent, and severe.
...we must focus American engagement on (...) forging cooperative solutions to
the threat of climate change (p.3) **Climate change** and pandemic disease
**threaten the security of regions** and the health and safety of the American
people (p.8)

**European Commission – Communication on Climate Action (2013)**
...the extra demands placed on health services and basic infrastructure by climate
change and increasing political and security tensions over limited natural
resources such as water.

**Nobel Committee, Oslo (12 October 2007)**
By awarding the Nobel Peace Prize for 2007 to the IPCC and Al Gore, the
Norwegian Nobel Committee is seeking to contribute to (...) processes and
decisions necessary to protect the worlds future climate, and thereby **to reduce**
**the threat to the security of mankind**.
Climate change references in the EU Maritime Security Strategy

Maritime Security Interests
"The protection of the environment and the management of the impact of climate change in maritime areas and coastal regions, as well as the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to avoid future security risks."

Maritime Security Risks and Threats
"The potential security impact of natural or man-made disasters, extreme events and climate change on the maritime transport system and in particular on maritime infrastructure;"
Lines of convergent thinking

1. Climate change is a **threat multiplier** which exacerbates existing trends, tensions and instability.

> climate change has security implications.

2. Climate change, biodiversity and ecosystem services are **strategic (maritime) security interests**.
2. What climate change challenges do we face, and what lessons can we learn from recent environmental disasters?
Climate Change Challenges

1) Temperature trends (rising)
2) Lengthening frost free season
3) Precipitation change
4) Heavy downpour frequency
5) Extreme weather
6) Changes in storms and hurricanes
7) Rising sea level
8) Melting ice
9) Ocean acidification
How climate change can have security implications

(1) Conflict over resources
(2) Economic damage and risk to coastal cities and critical infrastructure
(3) Loss of territory and border disputes
(4) Environmentally-induced migration
(5) Situations of fragility and radicalization
(6) Tension over energy supply
(7) Pressure on international governance
Environmental Disasters
- Gulf of Mexico - Deep Water Horizon
- Japan, Fukushima – Operation Tomodachi

Environmental concerns
- Baltic sea – Sea Dumped Chemical Munitions / Oil transports
- Black Sea – Tension over energy security
Gulf of Mexico: Deepwater Horizon

- Largest oil spill in US history
  87 days; 200 million gallons oil

- What to do? Who does what?
  Govt. response & interagency coordination

-Federal On-Scene Coordinator

-'The expansion of drilling into deeper
  water/farther from shore was not coupled
  with advances in spill prevention and
  response'.
Japan: Fukushima disaster

-'Cross-sectoral' disaster

-US maritime support operation Tomodachi ('Friendship')

-Two months / US$ 90 million /
  24,000 US military, 189 a/c, 24 ships

-Led to a diplomatic opening

-USS Ronald Reagan nuclear contamination (?)
Baltic Sea – Sea Dumped Chemical Munitions / oil transports

- Environmental concerns
- Safety - Security nexus
- Economic impact
- Cross-border cooperation
Black Sea – Tension over energy security

- Critical energy corridor

- Open and frozen conflicts

- Risk of terrorism and environmental catastrophe
Should Climate Action be mainstreamed in CSDP operations and missions?

Adaptation – Mitigation – Impact/Consequence management
Strengthening resilience

Operation Atalanta – humanitarian mission

YES IT SHOULD
Policy considerations

1. Mainstream climate action in CSDP.

2. Include 'environmental issues' as a standard theme in all Crisis Management Concepts and Strategic Reviews of CSDP missions and operations.

3. Appoint an 'Environmental Officer' in each CSDP mission and operation.
Thank you